

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 | 6:00 PM

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| Virtual: | In-Person: |
| Join zoom meeting Meeting ID: 856 3321 7981 Passcode: 769627 Dial in: 1 855 703 8985 | North Bay Boardroom NNDSB Head Office 963 Airport Rd., North Bay, ON. |

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

We would like to open this meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, on which all schools of the NNDSB are situated. The Board Office is specifically located on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation. We value the cultures, histories and relationships with the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. We are grateful to be gathered here today.

1.2 Attendance

Confirmation of Quorum

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 In-Camera

Motion: That the Board move into a Committee of the Whole Private Session in order to discuss items pertaining to The Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 section 207(2.1).

3.0 Arise and Report

4.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion: That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 9, 2023, be approved.

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes ✓

Motion: That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 11, 2023, be approved.

6.0 Business Arising

Nil.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Trustee Bertram ✓

7.2 Chair's Update- Meeting with Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre ✓

8.0 Adjournment

Motion: That on May 9, 2023 we do now adjourn at ____pm.



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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The April 11, 2023 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** of the Near North District School Board was held in person at the Head Office and via a Zoom video and/or teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Erika Lougheed, Chair
Howard Wesley, Vice-Chair ®
Ashley St. Pierre
Bill Steer
Chantal Phillips *
Jeanie Fuscaldo
Julie Bertram ®
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Allen Lewis Trodd, Student Trustee ®*
Cecilia Darling, Student Trustee ®*

Trustees Absent:

Nil.

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer ®
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education ®
Timothy Graves, Superintendent of Education ®

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference
* arrived following roll call. Attendance noted within the minutes

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees are present.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.0 In-Camera

At this time, Chair Lougheed advised the Committee of the Whole would be moving into a private session. Members of the public were excused and advised they would be permitted back into the meeting once the Board arose in public session.

Motion: B. Steer/ L. Sargent

That the Board move into a Committee of the Whole Private Session in order to discuss items pertaining to The Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 section 207(2) clause (b). - **Carried.**

A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls and allow staff and community members time to exit the meeting room. Trustees attending virtually were reminded to secure their space as well to ensure confidentiality.

Trustee Phillips has joined the meeting.

3.0 Arise and Report

The Committee arose and reported in the public session of the Committee of the Whole. A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls to permit members of the public to re-enter the virtual meeting and open the physical meeting space for in-person guests to re-enter.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Trustees were referred to the agenda included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: S. Hall/ J. Fuscaldo

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 11, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 03 28 Committee of the Whole

Trustees were referred to the minutes included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: J. Fuscaldo/ H. Wesley

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 28, 2023 be approved. – **Carried.**

6.0 Business Arising

It is noted that there is no business arising brought forward for discussion.

Student Trustees Trodd and Darling have joined the meeting.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Trustee Steer

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Steer contained in the agenda package requesting Board support to bring a motion forward to the OPSBA

Annual General Meeting to request OPSBA begin to study the four-day workweek model and its prospective impact on the education system.

It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was opened for expressions of support. Trustee Hall noted he will second the motion. Chair Lougheed noted Trustee Steer is permitted to speak first for up to three minutes, and then the floor will be opened for discussion by trustees. Highlights are noted as:

- Opening comments by Trustee Steer to recognize that the four-day workweek model is becoming increasingly popular and so it is prudent that OPSBA begins to gather articles and studies the impacts this could have on the education system.
- It is recognized that this was brought forward by the NNDSB Board to the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting, where the motion failed to gain consensus. Trustee Steer noted he wished to bring it forward again to the 2023 AGM if there was unanimous support from the NNDSB Board for this attempt.
- Comment raised by Trustee Sargent that it is too premature to begin this investigation, and the time would be better spent on more pressing provincial matters.
- Question raised on what the impact would be on the NNDSB Board if the resolution was brought forward. Trustee Steer noted it would proceed to an OPSBA committee to begin the investigation. Clarification that there would be no direct impact/ action required by NNDSB staff or trustees to bring this forward.

With no further comments to note, trustees were asked by a show of hands to confirm support for the motion presented by Trustee Steer. It is noted that seven trustees are in favour, and two trustees are opposed. Confirmation from Trustee Steer that he will not seek a motion for approval at the Board meeting, given the consensus was not unanimous. Thanks were expressed to Trustee Steer for bringing this forward to the Board for consideration.

7.2 Code of Conduct Review

Trustees were referred to the Code of Conduct (Governance Policy 205) contained in the agenda package. In alignment with Ontario Regulation 246/18, the Board is required to review its Trustee code of conduct by May 15, 2023 and determine if changes are required or confirm the existing code of conduct. Chair Lougheed noted all trustees signed off on the Code of Conduct at the 2022 Inaugural meeting. OPSBA is recommending that boards refrain from making amendments at this time, as potential changes are expected from the ministry as a result of the OPSBA consultation on this issue.

The floor was opened for questions or comments regarding this item, with none rose. It is noted that consensus is expressed to confirm the existing Code of Conduct. Chair Lougheed noted a motion will come forward in regular session to confirm this approval.

7.3 Question Period Process Review

Trustees were referred to By-law 113 included in the agenda package regarding Question Period. It is noted that notice was shared at the previous meeting that a discussion would be coming forward to determine the process for this item, and how it can be made more accessible. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- Trustee Bertram was invited to open the discussion, as this item was brought forward through her initiative. Thoughts offered to have it placed on the agenda early so that the agenda could be amended.
- Comments from Trustee Sargent to note a form was used previously. Members of the public were welcomed to complete it and submit it to the Executive Assistant in advance of the meeting. When Question Period came up on the agenda, the Chair would read and respond to the questions submitted.
- Support from Trustee Hall to accept questions from virtual participants. A numbering system will be important so the 10-minute time period can be respected.
- Point raised by Trustee Fuscaldo that a mechanism will need to be established to respond to remaining questions submitted if the Question Period time expires.
- Municipal perspective offered by Chair Lougheed, where Question Period would be added closer to the end of an agenda as sometimes the responses are provided through presentations and comments offered.
- Clarification that the Question Period process is outside the delegation process, (which is more formal).
- Point raised by Trustee Phillips that there should be an option to extend the timeframe beyond 10 minutes.

Chair Lougheed summarized the process developed through discussion will include receipt of in-person or electronic questions, which will be ordered, and the item will be tabled closer to the end of the agenda. Chair Lougheed noted there would be an option to extend the timeline through motion with majority approval.

Chair Lougheed noted the process would be structured as per the discussion. Trustees were thanked for their participation in this discussion.

7.3 North Bay Elementary School Naming Committee Report

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package. Opening remarks from Chair Lougheed to thank Trustees Hall and Steer for their participation on this committee and involvement in the process undertaken. Director Myles expressed gratitude to all members of the Renaming Committee, and in particular, the committee chair, Superintendent Melanie Gray, for their tireless work and commitment to this important process. The committee has worked hard to ensure many voices were heard and that the outcome truly represents the diversity and inclusivity that we strive for in the Near North school community.

Superintendent Gray provided a review of the process undertaken and noted the committee was so pleased with the high level of school and community engagement. A special thanks was offered to Nipissing First Nation Chief and Council for their thoughtful consideration, and the School Council Chairs involved for their active role in seeking input through the consultation process.

It is noted that the report concludes with a recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the name choice supported through community consultation and recommended by the Naming Committee. Final survey results based on submissions by students, parents, and community members indicate the top choice to be Maple View Public School.

Chair Lougheed opened the floor for comments or questions, with none rose. Consensus was expressed for the name Maple View Public School by show of hands by trustees. Chair Lougheed confirmed a motion would be passed in regular session to confirm approval.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: L. Sargent/ S. Hall

That we do now adjourn at 7:00 PM. – **Carried**

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| Title: | Notice of Motion |
| Contact: | Julie Ann Bertram |
| Date Submitted: | May 9, 2023 |
| Mandate: | In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Trustee Bertram provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the May 9 Committee of the Whole meeting. |
| Background: | <p>Whereas the public, students, parents, staff, stakeholders, and rightsholders have a right to access public meetings and may not be available to attend at scheduled meeting times,</p> <p>Whereas the advancement in technology has created the feasibility and ease-ability of live-streaming and recording meetings,</p> <p>Whereas the desire for transparent communication is indicated by the public,</p> <p>Whereas Excellence in Communication is one of the 4 overarching principles of the MYSP,</p> <p>Whereas the NNDSB is committed to promoting public confidence in public education, I move that public meetings be live-streamed, recorded, and made accessible.</p> <p>Background data drawn from neutral third-party advisors in 2020 indicated a desire for transparent communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders want NNDSB to make transparent decisions and provide sufficient information to the public. <i>Nanos Research</i> • Participants identified communication as a significant area for improvement within the NNDSB. <i>Joudrie and Easton</i> <p>Considering the NNDSB uses Zoom for members and the public to attend public meetings, it could be a simple matter of pressing the record button. Zoom also has a consent button before online participants join, informing them that the meeting is being recorded if they happen to enter the meeting while in progress. Zoom has a 'pause' button that would be used during In-camera sessions, and the record button can be hit again to resume the video once the public portion reconvenes.</p> <p>Considering NNDSB already has a YouTube channel, the recordings can be saved on that platform and linked to the NNDSB website.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Suggestion:</u> Video recording live, uploading videos to the NNDSB YouTube channel, making the videos publicly accessible for a 6-month period, and linking to the NNDSB website. Archiving videos after a 6-month period, then to be available through a request form. A formal declaration at the beginning of each meeting that it will be recorded so anyone who does not consent to be recorded can remove themselves.</p> <p><u>Support:</u> “The Government of Canada is adopting best practices informed by ground breaking strategic communications planning work conducted by the UK Government, now internationally recognized as pioneers in effective public sector communications practices (for more on the UK Government Communications Plan, see here). A core principle of the model is the notion of “digital by default”, that is, designing communications tactics and approaches around the web as the core channel, rather than as an afterthought. It’s the difference between issuing a news release and then posting it online and developing a communications approach across the web, social media and off-line communication channels.” Practices in Government Communications – <i>resultsmap.com</i></p> <p>“In recent years, the organizational structures of communications teams have transformed dramatically, in response to the extraordinary changes in the media landscape.” Practices in Government Communications – <i>resultsmap.com</i></p> <p>The need and demand for public meeting transparency continue to rise, and residents have growing expectations for video content. Video is one of your best and easiest solutions to meet resident expectations. Constant advancement in video technology means there are now affordable and scalable solutions.” https://www.rocksolid.com/blog/5-myths-about-public-meeting-video-broadcasts-and-transparency</p> |
| Resolution: | BE IT RESOLVED that the NNDSB live-streams public meetings, keeps the recorded videos accessible on the NNDSB YouTube Channel, and links them to the NNDSB website. |

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| Title: | Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre Meeting |
| Contact: | Erika Lougheed, Chair |
| Date Submitted: | May 9, 2023 |
| Mandate: | Excellence in Relationships through the focus on promoting and building connections to foster mutually respectful communication among students, families, staff, and the broader community. |
| Background | <p>A report was issued to the board of trustees (Oct 2022) outlining the administration’s decision regarding the conclusion of the lease agreement between Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre (DFT) and Near North District School Board (NNDSB).</p> <p>After the board meeting in October 2022, DFT requested a follow-up meeting with NNDSB to clarify some items felt may have been misunderstood and to discuss options for use of space, moving forward. It is recognized that the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees received a detailed report summarizing the information presented to the previous Board in December 2022. Highlights were shared to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry’s number one guiding principle for the community use of schools is that school activities take priority • With instructional space needs increasing to meet higher student enrollment numbers, it was determined that West Ferris Secondary School (WFSS) could no longer offer long-term dedicated use of its space (instructional and storage space) to outside parties. As a result, the Dreamcoat lease agreement, which expired in 2018, was not renewed. • It is noted that the lease agreement between DTF and NNDSB has a confidentiality clause which prevents the board from speaking publicly about any terms contained in the agreement. Legal counsel has advised NNDSB that the confidentiality clause of the agreement outlives the duration of the agreement and has advised NNDSB against public disclosures. • Decisions about community use of schools are the operational purview of school principals and not at the discretion of the board of trustees. |
| Meeting Update | Chair Lougheed met with DFT on April 28, 2023 with notification to the Board of Trustees of a report follow-up. SO Smylie attended as a |

resource. DFT was represented at the meeting by Acting Board Chair, Shannon Clausen and Michelina Beam, Executive Director.

The meeting was hosted in person at the North Bay Board Office. Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre provided a detailed history of the organization and highlighted the importance of their work with youth. They noted they understood that WFSS was unable to continue to lease space for DFT and storage was an issue for school programming. DFT representatives sought clarity on the definition of ‘community use of space’ and outlined issues with NNDSB request portal not being clear enough on the parameters. They cited the October 2022 report highlighting ‘health & safety’ as a rationale for not renewing the lease gave the misperception DFT programming was unsafe for youth. They also believed the Board may not have understood the financial and collaboration of support provided by DFT to TOROS and that people seem to get the programs confused. Representatives wanted to know how best to request space in the future. Disappointment was expressed about a public comment made about ‘those people’ in reference to DFT by the Board. DFT expressed an interest in future opportunities for space, with an understanding that storage would not be included, and they were not looking for a permanent space with NNDSB at this time.

NNSDB reviewed the history of meetings, notice, and rationale of the lease agreement ending and reviewed the 2013 Ministry educational ‘modernization & efficiency’ change and the impact that had on the use of school spaces. This also included that regular school programming must take precedence. Clarification was provided with the difference between ‘community use of space’ and a lease agreement. Lease agreements differ from community use in the number of hours typically utilized, the number of people expected to regularly be in the leased/used space, the ownership of the space and supervision responsibilities related to patrons, students and community members, and that community users must bring in their materials and leave the space exactly as it was found.

Chair Loughheed apologized for the ‘those people’ comment made by the Board and acknowledged that DFT programming is not a health and safety issue itself but the storage space over capacity was a health and safety issue. Confirmation was provided that DFT can apply for use of school space with an understanding of it being at the operational discretion of school principals, not the Board of Trustees.

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| Recommendation | <p>That the Board of Trustees accepts this report with no further action required.</p> <p>NNDSB wishes to thank Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre for the opportunity to meet, thanks them for their unwavering commitment to arts and youth in our community and wishes them continued success in the future.</p> |
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